

SEP 16 1999 907

LAW OFFICE OF
SPALLINA & KRASE

132 EAST MORTON AVENUE
PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 93257

FRED V. SPALLINA
ROBERT KRASE

TELEPHONE: (559) 784-2353
FAX: (559) 784-2463

LEE GUTHRIE

September 14, 1999

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Attn: Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director

Re: *CALFED Revised Phase 2 Report, Draft EIS/EIR*

Dear Mr. Snow:

I was unable to attend your Visalia public meeting on September 14, 1999 to make these comments verbally. Therefore, I am setting them down to you in writing.

I believe that the current CALFED draft EIS/EIR contains several false goals based upon old thinking. It does not deal with the long term problems under the current and future situation.

First, CALFED has placed emphasis on increased surface storage, i.e., dams. Building more dams destroys natural areas. There is a limited number of dams that can be built and only a few would in fact add actual additional storage to the water system. Building more dams ignores the obligation of conservation. Most importantly, building more dams ignores the quality of life and the current focus of the California lifestyle on keeping wilderness areas as natural and pristine as possible.

More fundamentally, building more dams assumes that the State of California must continue to deplete its natural resources and destroy its environment to fuel population growth and industry. The limited water resources of California at some point simply cannot support more people. Believing that more water can be developed to support more growth is the old fashioned thinking that must be changed. CALFED must acknowledge that a certain amount of the water shed and of the water are being set aside for environment protection, and that the cities and industry must live on the balance. (Of course, if a new technology, such as cold fusion, actually was developed and desalinization became cheap and easy, then this equation could be changed in the future.)

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

September 14, 1999

Page 2

There also should be more emphasis placed on conservation. As we all know, a significant amount of water is used to flood irrigate pastures which is economically a low use of water and the smallest dollar production from the water. By simply eliminating flood irrigated pastures, there would be more than ample water for the time being for cities, industry and for high dollar agriculture that uses state of the art irrigation methods.

Along with surface dams, the suggestion of a peripheral canal exemplifies the old thinking. A peripheral canal was a bad idea before, and it continues to be a bad idea. It is a bad idea not because of its value to industry or cities, but because of its destruction of the environment. Nothing has changed to make that different, and the pursuit of that idea is simply old thinking.

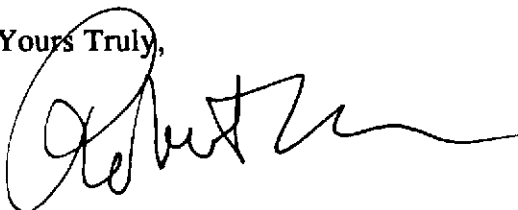
CALFED has not placed enough emphasis on water quality. Thirty years ago in California it was assumed that one would drink water out of the tap wherever you went except for a few cities. Now, everywhere the water is polluted and toxic and people drink bottled water. This is an absurd change that should not be accepted. An example of lack of water quality control is the use of public lands for grazing where the cattle are allowed to graze into streams and creeks destroying those water sources. While one hundred years ago such use was of minimal impact on the overall water sources, now those water sources are limited and strained and subject to other sources of pollution, such that allowing in stream grazing by cattle simply creates too much environmental havoc and expense, especially in light of the few dollars produced by such grazing on public lands. The CALFED should spend more effort on restoring the ecosystems.

CALFED's proposal for dams fails to address the issue of who is to pay for the dams. It is clear that the new dams are not to the benefit of the general tax payer, but are designed to help particular individuals and companies. The users of this additional water should be the ones who pay for the dams. Since it would not be cost beneficial for them to pay for the dams, they prefer to pass this general charge on to the tax payers, such that this is the equivalent of a welfare system.

In conclusion, I ask that CALFED refocus its proposals and priorities. Recreation is a high dollar industry in California, and it is compatible with the lifestyle and desires of most Californians. The first priority of CALFED should be enhancing the natural environment, and reducing the amount of water being wasted by the economy.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please place me on the mailing list for notice of future actions.

Yours Truly,



Robert Krase

RK/mls